

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are presently active in this case, Claim 3 is canceled by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10260521 to Miyano and Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 were allowed.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Parker for allowance of Claims 1, 2, and 5-7. In this regard, Applicants note that Claim 7 was not explicitly indicated as allowed in the Office Action Summary. However, as the Office Action rejects only Claims 3 and 4, and Claim 7 includes limitations similar to the claims explicitly allowed, Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to allow Claim 7.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 3, in order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, this claim has now been canceled and therefore the rejection is moot.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 4, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 4 recites a liquid crystal display including a thin film transistor (TFT) glass substrate having electrode terminals with a first preformed shape, and a tape carrier package (TCP) having leads with a second preformed shape different from the first preformed shape. Also recited is means for electrically connecting the electrode terminals of the TFT glass substrate with the leads of the TCP such that the leads of the TCP bend to be substantially aligned with the second preformed shape.

Thus, Claim 4 includes a means plus function limitation which is required to be “construed to cover the corresponding structure...in the specification and equivalents

thereof.”<sup>1</sup> As described in Applicants’ specification, the electrode terminals of the TFT substrate are shaped to have a straight region 8a and an oblique region 8b as shown in Figure 1, and the lead terminals of the TCP6 are shaped to have a straight region 9a and an oblique region 9b as shown in Figure 2. This configuration is described in the specification as performing the function of “electrically connecting the electrode terminals of the TFT glass substrate with the leads of the TCP such that the leads of the TCP bend to be substantially aligned with the second preformed shape” recited in Claim 4. Thus, the structure in the specification corresponding to the “means” of Claim 4 includes a conductor having a straight portion and an oblique portion.

In contrast, the cited reference to Miyano discloses straight electrodes of a glass substrate arranged like a rectilinear fan. Thus, this reference does not teach the structure corresponding to the means plus function limitation of Claim 4 and Claim 4 patentably defines over Miyano. In this regard, Applicants note that the Background section of Applicants’ specification actually explained the advantages of the present invention over the Miyano reference. Specifically, the Background section explains that the electrodes of Miyano (“Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 260421/1998”) being arranged in a rectilinear fan does not provide a shape that is identical to that of the TCP lead which is obtained after thermo compression bonding. That is, the shape of the TCP lead is different than that of the glass substrate electrode of Miyano after the compression bonding and, therefore, Miyano reference provides an insufficient countermeasure for the problem of terminal shift.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the present invention provides for improved alignment between the electrode terminals and TCP leads due to the straight and oblique configuration described in Applicants’ specification and claimed in Applicants’ Claim 4.

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<sup>1</sup> 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph.

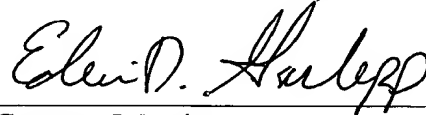
<sup>2</sup> Applicants’ specification at paragraph linking pages 3 and 4.

For the reasons discussed above, Claim 4 patentably defines over the cited reference to Miyano.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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